

Talking Points
ATK Bill-Signing
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Jackson

VERY IMPORTANT: DO NOT MENTION AIRBUS!

- Thank you all for joining us today as I sign legislation that authorizes state funding to assist with a major economic development expansion project.
- As many of you know, Alliant Techsystems, or ATK as it is more commonly known, has a facility in Iuka that currently employs 176 workers and produces composite launch vehicles. This is an impressive facility, as you can see from the aerial photograph to my right, and ATK is engaged in highly advanced manufacturing processes there.
- Last month, we made the announcement that ATK would be significantly expanding its operations in Iuka and would be producing composite frame and engine components for commercial aircraft there. Composite airframes are a critical component of next-generation aircraft, and we are proud ATK has chosen to locate these operations in Mississippi.
- This expansion of operations will grow the facility's workforce to a total of 800 high-wage workers over the next 8 years. By locating these operations here, ATK is making a considerable commitment to Mississippi and is demonstrating a firm confidence in our workers, our R & D initiatives, and our pro-business climate.
- The legislation I am about to sign supports ATK in this expansion. It provides \$25 million in Major Economic Impact Authority funds to assist in reconfiguring the Iuka facility to accommodate these new operations, and to purchase equipment.
- I want to thank Lt. Governor Bryant, Speaker McCoy, Chairman Kirby, Chairman Watson, Senator Clarke, Senator Powell, and Representative Norquist for their support of this legislation.

- Now, I'd like to introduce you to Admiral Dan Murphy, Chairman and CEO of ATK.